during 1990-91 and 1991-92 are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

	1990-91	1991-92
(i) Direct taxes	486	722 (Provisional)
(ii) Indirect taxes (Customs & Central Excise duties) .	4125*	4697* (Provisional)

* Inclusive of collection from Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.

(b) and (c) Tre number of income- tax payers in Gujarat and the number of total income-tax payers in the country, as on 31-3-92, are given below:

(i) Number of income-tax payers in Gujarat	7,52,153
(ii) Number of income-tax payers in the country	78,43,790

As regards the number of tax payers of Central Excise duty, the information is as follows.

(i) Number of registered persons paying Central Excise duty in Gujarat	6,067
(ii) Number of registered persons paying Central Excise duty in the country	71,088

As regards Customs duty, while information is maintained in respect of documents filed for import and export of goods, no record is compiled for the number of importers or exporters involved.

Death during Interrogation by Directorate of Enforcement

4262. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3453 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th March, 1992 and state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Enquiry report of the Delhi District Court published in the Indian Express of 4th August, 1992 to the effect that Sawinder Singh died on February 28th 1992 in the custody of the Directorate of Enforcement, New Delhi, due to the torture inflicted on him by the Enforcement officials;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action has been taken against the officials of the Directorate of Enforcement, New Delhi, who have been found guilty of inflicting torture causing death of a citizen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) On the directions of the Supreme Court, a senior Additional Sessions Judge held an inquiry into the circumstances of Shri Sawinder Singh's death. The report of inquiry has been submitted by the senior Additional Sessions Judge to the Supreme Court; 8th September, 1992 has been fixed for arguments. The matter is, thus, subjudice before the Supreme Court.

Seizure of Antique Stone Sculptures

4263. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge consignment of anitque stone sculptures was seized at the Delhi Airport on 30th April 1992;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no attempt has so far been made to apprehend the actual owner who was getting them smuggled out of the country; and

(c) it so, what steps are being taken to apprehend the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Five pieces of suspected antiques which

were part of a consignment of Handicrafts being exported to the UK were seized by the officers of the Customs at Air Cargo Complex, Delhi, on 1-5 1992.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Decline in performance of various sectors

4264. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a steep decline in the performance of various sectors of economy during the last one year, particularly, in industrial production, power generation, crude oil and steel production and of fertilisers;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this decline; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to ensure achievement of targets in various sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) A statement comparing the performance of various sectors of the economy in 1991—92 with that in 1990-91 and the latest available data is enclosed (see below). While some sectors like agriculture, industrial production as a whole, crude oil production and exports recorded a decline in 1991-92, other sectors posted an improved performance. Power generation and fertilisers recorded higher growth rates in 1991-92 over the year previous to it and saleable steel maintained the same growth rate. In the current year, a turnaround in industrial production and an improvement in foreign trade are in evidence. The inflation rates has also been falling and has dropped to single digit level by 25th July, 1992.

(b) and (c) The slow down in growth of GDP in 1991-92 was mainly the result of difficulties experienced in the real sectors. The decline in agricultural production was attributable to a fall in khariff production because of erratic behaviour of monsoon in the major producing areas. The indusrtial production was adversely affected by severe import compression and tight credit policy restored to since 1990-91 due to shortage of foreign exchange and to contain inflationary pressures, respectively. The decline in exports in 1991-92 was mainly due to recessionary conditions in industrialised countries, restricted access to imported inputs and disruption of trade with Rupee Payment Area (RPA).

The inflationary situation in 1991-92 was the result of a number of factors, such as, liquidity over hang due to large fiscal deficits in the past; the uneven progress of monsoon generating inflationary expectations; supply-demand imbalances in some sensitive commodities; shortfalls in domestic production and constraints in augmenting dmestic supplies through imports due to foreign exchange shortage and increase in administered prices of certain commodities.

The Government has already initiated a package of macroeconomic stabilisation measures and structural adjustments. for strengthening the growth capability of the economy and to put it on a path of sustained development in the medium term. The constraints due to import restrictions and a tight credit policy have been considerably relaxed. Other measures taken during the current year are further reduction of fiscal deficit, rationalisation of taxes and duties, introduction of partial convertibility of rupee, reduction in quantitative restrictions on trade, further liberalisation of foreign investment and capital markets, etc. Detailed sectoral policies for the medium term have been spelt out in the Eight Five Year Plan, which has been adopted recently. These policies are expected to increase efficiency and productivity and thereby impart resilence and stability to the economy, thus leading to achievement of fargets in various sectors.